

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A piston ring according to Claim ~~[[17]]~~ 18, wherein ~~the piston ring is disposed in a~~ the ring groove of a piston having has a plurality of boundaries.

3 - 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A piston ring according to Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 20, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ an outer surface of said generally rectangular projection is substantially parallel to ~~[[a]]~~ the wall of ~~[[a]]~~ the surrounding cylinder.

10. (Currently Amended) A piston ring according to Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 20, wherein said rectangular projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.

11 - 14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A piston ring according to Claim 18, wherein said projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A piston ring disposed in a ring groove of a piston and surrounded by a wall of a cylinder for use with a combustion chamber, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body having generally parallel upper and lower surfaces disposed between inner and outer peripheral faces, the outer peripheral face being generally tapered to an edge such that the edge contacts the wall of the cylinder and defining a gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall; and

a projection extending radially outwardly from the outer peripheral face to reduce the gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall, the projection thereby reducing exposure of the

outer peripheral face to the combustion chamber, the lower surface further including a generally hook-shaped groove and the outer peripheral face defining the edge, wherein the edge extends radially outwardly farther than the projection;

wherein the projection includes an outer surface substantially parallel to the wall of the cylinder.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A piston ring disposed in a ring groove of a piston and surrounded by a wall of a cylinder for use with a combustion chamber, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body having generally parallel upper and lower surfaces disposed between inner and outer peripheral faces, the outer peripheral face being generally tapered to an edge such that the edge contacts the wall of the cylinder and defining a gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall; and

a projection extending radially outwardly from the outer peripheral face to reduce the gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall, the projection thereby reducing exposure of the outer peripheral face to the combustion chamber, the lower surface further including a generally hook-shaped groove and the outer peripheral face defining the edge, wherein the edge extends radially outwardly farther than the projection, and the projection is generally rectangular.

21. (New) A piston ring according to Claim 18, wherein the projection extends radially outwardly along the upper surface.

22. (New) A piston ring according to Claim 18, wherein the projection is generally rectangular and includes an outer surface.